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methodists we all for*

Board of National Missions  
of the Presbyterian Church in the  
United States of America  
156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

December 29, 1949

Dr. P. Gordon Gould  
1701 Arch Street  
Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Gould:

Thank you for your suggestions concerning the sub-committee on Alaska in the Home Missions Congress.

We had a meeting of the chairmen of the various sub-committees to outline our procedure. We had expected to have three three-hour periods for the consideration of the Protestant work in Alaska but now discover that we will have only two three-hour periods. It will be necessary for us to break this up into smaller time allotments for each presentation and try to squeeze them all into the time allowed. As a result of that it will be necessary for us to ask each one who presents a separate phase on Alaska to speak not longer than ten minutes, to open the discussion and spend the balance of the half hour on a particular subject. This will be especially true in presenting the general conditions of Alaska before we approach the problems among which the churches carry our ministry.

The ones whom we have designated for the various phases on Alaska will be asked to make their presentations in the first period. We have been warned not to present a great amount of background conditions which are already familiar to those present but to point up our presentations with a recognition of this back ground through some constructive advance.

Your contribution as I see it would be to build upon the background material which has already been discussed and lay the foundation for a consideration of a greater ministry in a more cooperative fashion to meet and overcome the handicaps of all of the conditions in the territory. In other words, your presentation will be the turning point from basic general conditions to the ministry of the church. In this case we probably should allow a little more than ten minutes time but certainly not more than fifteen, and if your presentation could be suggestive to point out items on which the committee could take united action for presentation and approval to the larger group you will be most helpful.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Department of Work in Alaska

JEJ:AG  
cc: Dr. Earl Brown



*al file*  
*Methodists in al*  
*Confidential*

Board of National Missions  
of the Presbyterian Church in the  
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

January 30, 1950

Dr. W. W. Beatty  
Department of the Interior  
Merchandise Mart  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Beatty:

You are aware of the fact that the Methodist Church is in the midst of a campaign for a considerable sum of money to build "a Christian College and Industrial Training Institute" in Alaska. This has not been cleared with the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council, and some of us are concerned to know whether this is needed and, if so, where it should be located. Alaska now has a Liberal Arts Department at the University, a church related bi-racial Junior College at Sitka which is moving toward accreditation and which has been requested to expand its work into a four year accredited College, and a vocational training program at Mt. Edgecumbe.

Some factual and interpretative statements are needed from those who are close to the educational facilities and needs of Alaska. These statements are not intended for publicity but to be a guide to those concerned in the situation. A few leading questions have been formulated. We would be glad to have answers on them and any additional observations you may desire to make.

Do the number of high school graduates in Alaska who would attend a college in Alaska warrant the development of another institution on the college level?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a need for another church related college in Alaska? Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_. If the answer is Yes, where should it be located: Southeastern \_\_\_\_\_  
Kenai Peninsula \_\_\_\_\_ Interior \_\_\_\_\_?

Should the work of Sheldon Jackson Junior College be expanded: (1) Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Buildings: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Program: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_;  
accreditation as a Junior College: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_; a full four year college:  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_?

If more facilities on the college level through a church related college are needed, should these be provided through: the expansion of the program of Sheldon Jackson Junior College under present auspices: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_; the development of a separate church related college: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_; or the consideration of Sheldon Jackson Junior College as an interdenominational school: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_?



It is the desire of the Presbyterians to render an adequate, accredited Christian service in this field, whether it be done alone or in cooperation with other denominations associated through the Home Missions Council. We have pioneered alone in Alaska and are willing to pioneer further in cooperation with others if that will provide the largest and best service needed.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Department of Work in Alaska

JEJ:AG

cc: Dr. George A. Dale  
Mr. Don C. Foster



HISTORY IN BRIEF  
of  
PROPOSED CHRISTIAN COLLEGE FOR ALASKA

The initiation of the idea which has grown to that of an interdenominational Christian College for Alaska occurred in October 1948 when Dr. Earl Brown of the Methodist Board mentioned in the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council the interest of the Methodists in establishing a junior college on, or near, the Kenai Peninsula in Methodist Territory in Southwest Alaska.

Because of the limited number of high school graduates in Alaska, and the fact that Alaskans are air minded and travel freely long distances for services they desire, and also because the Board of National Missions is developing Sheldon Jackson Junior College into an accredited junior college and had been asked in March 1947 by the Territorial Board of Education to consider making the school a four year college, the Presbyterian representatives on the Committee (Dr. Jackman and Miss Gladfelter) stressed from the first the need of an interdenominational study and approach to any expansion of educational facilities under church auspices. A Committee was set up in November 1948 to make such a study, the chairman being Mrs. Stewart of the Methodist Board, but it had only one meeting at which Mrs. Stewart was absent on field work.

In the meantime Dr. Gordon Gould (Indian from Southwest Alaska) was appointed the supervisor of Methodist Church work in Alaska. He began an aggressive campaign in the States and in Alaska for a Methodist College and the idea caught fire in the Methodist Church. A special Methodist Committee was appointed to study the need for a Christian College in Alaska and a Committee of the Methodist Board of Higher Education visited Alaska. Their visit stimulated local communities to bid for the college, and several which offered land and other inducements, are in Southeastern Alaska where a new Methodist institution would be in direct competition with Sheldon Jackson Junior College.

In February, 1950 the Board of National Missions took the following action which was presented to the Alaska Committee:

"THAT in view of the Board's long standing interest in education in Alaska and its present investment in, and plans for the Sheldon Jackson Junior College, Sitka, Alaska, and in view of the expressed interest of the Methodist Church in entering the field of education in the Territory, the Board request the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council to study the educational needs of Alaska and that the Board state to the Committee and to the Methodist Board officials its readiness to consider pooling resources in an interdenominational Christian college in the Territory."

Dr. Fisher of the Methodist Board reported the readiness of his group to consider an interdenominational approach and the Alaska Committee voted that a study of educational needs on the college level be made. Information was assembled which is included as Appendices A and B to Appendix I -- Minutes of the Alaska Committee.



As the Alaska Committee continued its discussion of the proposed college the following possibilities were outlined as listed in the Minutes of the meeting of September 13, 1950.

- 1) Separate Methodist institution in South East Alaska
- 2) Interdenominational school in South East Alaska
- 3) Union with Sheldon Jackson College in South East Alaska
- 4) Possibility of (1) and (2) in South West Alaska

The suggestion was also made by a special sub-committee appointed to consider the financing on an interdenominational basis of the proposed college and of a chapel for Mt. Edgecumbe, the Government Indian School in Sitka, that the denominations at work in Alaska participate as follows on "the basis of their budgets and church membership in the Territory."

American Baptist	4%
Friends	7%
Methodist	13%
Moravian	15%
Presbyterian U.S.A.	36%
Protestant Episcopal	25%

These figures were considered at a meeting of the Alaska Committee on February 27, 1951. At that time a canvas was made of the denominations and it was evident that only three, the Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians are interested in the proposed college. Of these the Baptists might contribute to operating expenses but have no funds for capital purposes i.e. the erection of the necessary buildings. In the discussion of the proposed rations Miss Gladfelter pointed out that while these might be equitable for the proposed chapel at Mt. Edgecumbe they were scarcely so for the college since the Presbyterians already have a substantial investment in educational work in Alaska in Sheldon Jackson Junior College and that this does not seem to have been given proper weight in the over all picture.

In view of the preponderant interest of the Methodists and the Presbyterians in the proposed college, the Alaska Committee then voted to ask the Presbyterians to appoint a Committee to confer with the Methodist Committee with the understanding that this joint group would report to the Alaska Committee at a future meeting.



APPENDICES ATTACHED

Appendix I - Excerpts from Minutes of the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council relative to the proposed college.

This includes appendices A and B referred to in the Minutes of April 13, 1950.

Appendix II - Copies of correspondence during March, April and May, 1950 between Dr. Morse and Dr. Fisher and Dr. Brown of the Methodist Board about the college.

Appendix III - Up to date facts on Sheldon Jackson Junior College. This paper is a revision, with current information, of B in Appendix I.



## Appendix - I

### EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES OF THE ALASKA COMMITTEE OF THE HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL RE: ALASKAN COLLEGE

October 29, 1948

A Junior College in southwest Alaska: Dr. Brown raised the question about establishing a Junior College on the Kenai Peninsula, possibly under Methodist auspices so the children from Jessie Lee Home could have the possibility of further education. Dr. Jackman reported that Yukon Presbytery had voted to have a church college in the Matanuska Valley. Miss Gladfelter indicated that consideration had been given to the possibility of making Sheldon Jackson Junior College at Sitka an interdenominational school and another school in southwest Alaska might be considered on the same basis. The question was left for further study.

November 29, 1948

#### IV. Institutions in Alaska

It was VOTED that all Protestant church agencies operating institutions in Alaska be asked to report on their institutions and to indicate the area being served and the needs being ministered to.

It was VOTED that a subcommittee be appointed, representative of the Protestant agencies operating institutions in Alaska under comity, and that this subcommittee be responsible for a study of human need and institutional adequacy. Mrs. Stewart was asked to serve as chairman of this committee.

September 2, 1949

#### Proposed Church College in Alaska

The question of the proposed church college for Alaska was discussed at length, and information explaining the situation so far as the Methodists were concerned was given by both Dr. Brown and Mr. Gould. The following action was taken: That the secretary should be asked to gather whatever information he could relative to the need for a church college in Alaska, this information to be secured from the various mission boards, particularly, Mr. Gould, and through interview or by correspondence with Dr. Beatty. After this information is assembled, a meeting shall be arranged of the representatives of the boards that are concerned with the question of a church college in Alaska.

December 14, 1949

#### X. Methodist College

Dr. Brown reported that a new committee had been formed to continue the study and investigation of the need of another Christian college in Alaska. He assured the Committee that no commitment had been made except that of providing Christian education in Alaska.

It was VOTED that, after this Methodist Committee has met to clarify its program, a conference should be held with other denominations who are interested in the issue.



March 7, 1950

Higher Education

Dr. Nace presented the following action taken by the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian U. S. A., February 16, 1950:

"THAT in view of the Board's long standing interest in education in Alaska and its present investment in, and plans for the Sheldon Jackson Junior College, Sitka, Alaska, and in view of the expressed interest of the Methodist Church in entering the field of education in the Territory, the Board request the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council to study the educational needs of Alaska and that the Board state to the Committee and to the Methodist Board officials its readiness to consider pooling resources in an interdenominational Christian college in the Territory."

Miss Gladfelter stated that the Sheldon Jackson School included a two year junior college as well as a high school. Dr. Fisher reported that the Methodist Board of Missions was willing to consider interdenominational cooperation in the establishment of a college in Alaska, which they have had under consideration for some time. Their special committee on this college is to meet at Cleveland, Ohio, on April 17th.

Dr. Jackman presented figures supplied by Dr. Terris Moore, President of the University of Alaska, indicating that there are 1850 high school students in Alaska - 200 will graduate in one year. 100 will go to college, and 50 will be available for college training in Alaska.

Dr. Fisher said that Dr. Gross, of the Methodist Board of Education, had made a study of the educational situation in Alaska in relation to the need for a college which indicated larger opportunities for service.

VOTED to ask the secretary of this committee to investigate the educational needs on the college level in Alaska, by consulting the following sources:

Dr. James Ryan, Commissioner of Education, Juneau, Alaska  
Dr. Terris Moore, President, University of Alaska, College, Alaska  
Dr. John O. Gross, Chairman, Methodist Board of Education, Nashville,  
Tenn.

Dr. Willard W. Heatty, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Miss Gladfelter was asked to supply information on the status of and plans for the Sheldon Jackson School, and on the area it serves.

April 13, 1950

Report on Educational Situation in Alaska

At the previous meeting action had been taken requesting the secretary of the Home Missions Council to enter into correspondence concerning the educational situation in Alaska. The summary of replies appears in Appendix A.

Miss Gladfelter had been requested to report on the Sheldon Jackson School.  
(See Appendix B.)

Dr. Gould gave an oral report stating that his first task in his present position had been to make a survey of Alaska, which is reported in "Methodism at Work



in Alaska." He felt that significant findings of his survey were that Christian leadership had failed to make an adequate impact upon Alaska because of inadequate educational facilities for training native leadership. He stated that while high schools are generally available, few of them are of the quality which prepares their graduates for entrance in college. He cited the fact that the university gives special preparatory courses to most of their first year students. This observation was confirmed by Miss Gladfelter based upon experience at the Sheldon Jackson School.

It was VOTED for the Alaska Committee to go on record expressing this feeling that there is need for a Christian college of higher education in Alaska and to ask the denominations to explore the entire field of need both in secondary and higher education, with the view of meeting this need on an interdenominational basis.

July 6, 1950

Christian College for Alaska

Dr. Fisher presented the action of the Methodist Alaska Christian College Committee in response to a request from this committee expressing the hope that such an institution would be interdenominational. After discussion of the same, it was

VOTED that a joint meeting of the Alaska Committee and the Alaska Christian College Committee of the Methodist Church be held Wednesday, September 13th, at 10:00 A.M.

By common consent it was suggested that the subcommittee on the provision of a chapel for Sitka, as named above, consider proportional participation of denominational boards in the proposed Christian College for Alaska; further, that the secretary check on the Constitution and By-Laws used by the Association of Evangelical Churches in Puerto Rico and other Latin American countries.

September 13, 1950

Proposed Christian College in Alaska

The subject of the establishment of a Christian college in Alaska was considered at some length. Mr. Gould made a statement expressing his growing conviction for the need of such an institution, but indicated that there were two problems - (1) that the young people graduating from high school in Alaska were inadequately prepared for entrance into college and higher educational institutions; (2) that about one half of the young people of Alaska who go to college go to the States; of these less than 5% return to Alaska. This condition reflects the need for more adequate preparation on the part of the young people of Alaska for life and service in their own country.

Mr. Gould further stated that about 180 people go to the University of Alaska, and about the same number from the States attend that University. The number going to the States for higher education is approximately the same.

Mr. Gould informed the Committee that the present status, as far as the Methodist communion is concerned, is as it was reported to the Alaska Committee at its April meeting. Brochures have been received from some eleven or twelve communities in Alaska, indicating their interest in the establishment of such an institution. Mr. Gould feels that, should a decision be made to go ahead with plans for such a college, every dollar for property should be matched with a dollar toward endowment.



The anticipated need for the erection of such an institution is \$1,000,000 for property and \$1,000,000 for endowment. In view of the foregoing problems and conditions Mr. Gould expressed the conviction that Alaska needs a Christian liberal arts college.

Dr. Elliott Fisher quoted from a report by Dr. John O. Gross in reference to the situation, particularly the cost of the institution and its operation. He stated that the financial goal should be \$1,000,000 to \$1,250,000. He expressed the judgment that the success of such a school would be greatly affected by the selection of a site.

Bishop Bentley stated that the Episcopal Church had no plans for the development of higher institutions, but that they felt the need for a hostel for students at Fairbanks. He could not give any encouragement as to participation by the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the college project. He also stated that the women's share in the work of their church in Alaska was included in their general appropriations.

Miss Windham reported that at Sheldon Jackson College the courses begin at high school level. It was originally intended to serve natives only, but with the opening of a junior college different races were permitted to enter. Accreditation relationships with the University of Alaska and schools in the States have been worked out.

Dr. Jackman stated that the Presbyterian Board has been urged to extend the work in Sheldon Jackson to a four year college level, which would require approximately \$600,000. They are raising a fund of about \$150,000 to rebuild the administrative building. The enrollment in junior college last year was eighteen.

The following possibilities were discussed and held for further consideration by the committee:

- 1) Separate Methodist institution in South East Alaska
- 2) Interdenominational school in South East Alaska
- 3) Union with Sheldon Jackson College in South East Alaska
- 4) Possibility of (1) and (2) in South West Alaska

November 21, 1950

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Chairman asked the Secretary to review the minutes of the meeting held on September 13, 1950. This was done.

It was AGREED that the section of these minutes concerning "A Proposed Christian College in Alaska" did not indicate clearly the suggestion made by the committee that the Methodist representatives present convey the sentiments expressed in the Alaska Committee's meeting to this larger committee for discussion, in the hope of having another joint meeting later to further consider provision for the educational needs of the youth of Alaska, it being assured that in the meanwhile representatives of other denominations would make inquiry concerning the wishes of their respective boards regarding an interdenominational college in Alaska.

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#### Christian College in Alaska

Dr. Fisher reported that the Methodist Committee had given further consideration to the proposed Christian College for Alaska, and that they still would prefer to have



such an institution established on an interdenominational basis. He stated that their committee was eager to know the attitude of other boards regarding the project, as their committee was meeting in December at Buck Hill Falls.

VOTED, that the special committee, designated at an earlier meeting to prepare a report indicating a percentage ratio based on the total work now carried on in Alaska on which the boards might be urged to participate in providing the cost of a chapel at Mt. Edgecumbe School, be continued. Further that this committee be requested to meet at Cleveland next week, and, on the basis of their study indicated above, prepare and send a communication to the denominational boards, stating the possible cost involved in the building of a Christian college in Alaska, ascertaining the interest of the boards in such a project, and their willingness to help provide and support the same. Members of this committee are: Dr. Fisher (for Dr. Brown), Dr. Jackman and Dr. Nace.



## Appendix II

Copies of correspondence during March, April and May 1950  
between Dr. Morse and Dr. Fisher and Dr. Brown of the  
Methodist Board about the call.



COPY

Board of National Missions  
of the Presbyterian Church in the  
United States of America  
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, 10, N.Y.

February 23, 1950

Dr. Earl R. Brown, General Executive Secretary  
Board of Missions and Church Extension  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York 11, N.Y.

Dear Earl:

At a meeting of this Board held February 16th the following action was taken:

THAT in view of the Board's long standing interest in education in Alaska and its present investment in, and plans for the Sheldon Jackson Junior College, Sitka, Alaska, and in view of the expressed interest of the Methodist Church in entering the field of education in the Territory, the Board request the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council to study the educational needs of Alaska and that the Board state to the Committee and to the Methodist Board officials its readiness to consider pooling resources in an interdenominational Christian College in the Territory.

I sincerely hope that before your Board takes any final action for the initiation of a new educational project in Alaska, there may be conference between the representatives of our two Boards. Our only desire in this is that we might mutually agree upon a course of action, for us as well as for you, that would best serve to advance our common objectives for the Territory.

Cordially yours,

H.N. Morse  
General Secretary

HNM:R



COPY

March 16, 1950

Dr. Herman N. Morse  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Morse:

I am greatly chagrined that I did not have an opportunity to answer your letter regarding the religious educational work in Alaska. I was confined to my home for nearly a month, and since, my son has been very ill, which has made it impossible for me to take care of my mail.

You may rest assured that we will do everything in our power to work out some kind of a cooperative program. The Christian College in Alaska sponsored by our Superintendent of Alaska Work caught fire in the imagination of the church much more rapidly than I anticipated. Our Board has appointed a special committee to make a study of the whole situation. This committee is meeting in Cleveland on April 17th and I shall recommend that a special committee of that group be appointed to study the possibilities of an interdenominational procedure.

Before we take any other step toward the building or location of such a college, we will consult very carefully with you and the members of your staff in the matter of the Sheldon Jackson School and the religious educational work in Alaska.

Yours most sincerely,

(signed) Earl R. Brown

Earl R. Brown  
General Executive Secretary

orb/kms



COPY

DIVISION OF HOME MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION OF THE  
BOARD OF MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION  
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

150 Fifth Avenue

New York 11, N.Y.

May (?) 1950

Section of Home Missions

Dr. Herman N. Morse  
National Board of Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Morse:

For your information we are sending on the action taken by  
The Methodist Alaska Christian College Committee at its last  
meeting. It is our hope that we can work out something of benefit to  
the people of Alaska through interdenominational cooperation. I  
expect we will be meeting soon on this project.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Elliott L. Fisher  
Executive Secretary  
Section of Home Missions

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COPY

Motion adopted by Alaska College Committee, April 17, 1950

"That a sub-committee of five be appointed by the chairman to initiate discussion with the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council and the denominations working in Alaska (through the Home Missions Council) as to the advisability and possibility of the establishment of a liberal arts college in Alaska as an interdenominational project."

Statement prepared by Committee:

"The Alaska Christian College Committee of the Division of Home Missions and Church Extension of the Board of Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Church held its first meeting today in Cleveland, Ohio.

Careful consideration was given to the briefs, letters, petitions, telegrams, pictures, and other materials received from public officials, civic and community organizations, religious groups and many individuals in eleven communities within the Territory of Alaska. The Committee came definitely to the conclusion that there is need for a Christian Liberal Arts College in Alaska, and is continuing its efforts in that direction.

The Committee received a request from the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council of North America that such a project be interdenominational in character. Therefore, as the next step, it was felt advisable to set up a small sub-committee to initiate discussions with other denominations working in Alaska through the Home Missions Council.

In the meantime, the Methodist Church is continuing to raise funds for a school of higher education in Alaska through the Methodist Advance for Christ and His Church. It is heartening to discover that thirty-three Methodist annual conferences in sixteen Episcopal Areas in the United States have pledged support to this project through the four-year Advance program.

The Committee appreciates the interest shown by Alaska in the establishment of a Christian College there and recognizes with thanks the offer of sites from several communities."



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BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U.S.A.

Appendix III

SHELDON JACKSON JUNIOR COLLEGE  
Sitka, Alaska

General Facts  
1949-50

1. Enrollment . . . . . 136
2. Grades of work . . . . . 9th grade through second year college
3. Church Members . . . . . (Presbyterians . . . . . 100  
Others . . . . . 20  
Joined church during year . . . . . 8  
Not church members at end of year . . . . . 15
4. Racial Composition Student Body 1945-46  
White . . . . . 11 Eskimos . . . 18  
Indian:Thlingets . . . . . 55 Aleutians . . . 1  
Tsimpsians . . . . . 17 Timneh . . . . 1  
Haidas . . . . . 33
5. Communities Represented in Student Body . . . . . 25  
Range was from St. Lawrence Island and Wainwright to Petersburg.  
Majority of students from towns and villages in Southeastern Alaska.
6. Availability - other schools of high school and college rank  
No other Junior College in Alaska  
34 High School students from towns with public high schools  
102 High School and College students from towns where nearest public high  
school is 20 miles or more away with no transportation available.
7. Occupations of parents of Students  
Fishermen . . . . . 84 Laborers . . . . . 15  
Saw Mill or Cold Minister and lay  
Storage Workers . . . . . 4 workers . . . . . 1  
Business (store Orphans . . . . . 15  
owners or clerks) . . . . . 5 Trappers & loggers . . . . . 2  
Teachers . . . . . 2 Miscellaneous . . . . . 7
8. Charges to Students  
Tuition and board and room: 9th and 10th grades . . . . . \$125. a year.  
11th - 14th grades . . . . . \$150. a year.  
In 1949-50, 120 paid full in cash; 6 paid half in cash and the balance  
in work; 5 paid no tuition in cash.
9. Graduates  
From High School since High School work was established . . . . . 253  
From Junior College . . . . . 11  
Graduates continuing their study in other schools 1949-50 . . . . . 21



SHELDON JACKSON JUNIOR COLLEGE

Sitka, Alaska

History in Brief

- 1878 - Reverend John C. Brady (later Governor of Alaska) sent to Sitka; on initiative of Dr. Sheldon Jackson as first commissioned Presbyterian minister in Alaska, Miss Fannie R. Kellogg opened mission day school April 17th. In December married S. Hall Young and went to Wrangell. School broken up.
- 1879 - Alonzo E. Austin and wife arrived. Served as Chaplain and later Superintendent.
- 1880 - Mrs. Austin reopened day school in abandoned Government Guard House. Later moved to old Russian hospital building and a few boys accepted as boarders.
- 1882 - Girls' department added. Old hospital burned and school housed in abandoned Government stable until Dr. Sheldon Jackson could erect a school building from second hand materials. 640 acres surveyed and recorded at Sitka in accordance with organic act of Congress permitting reservation of 640 acres for each mission station among Indians.
- 1884 - Wrangell School (girls) combined with Sitka school under name of Sitka Industrial Training School, Dr. Jackson, Superintendent of school for the year. Organized the Sitka Presbyterian Church.
- 1910 - Name of school changed to Sheldon Jackson School in honor of the "great missionary pathfinder". School closed for year during erection of six new buildings; four dormitories, school building, industrial building.
- 1921 - First class to graduate from high school.
- 1927 - Central heating plant erected.
- 1929 - Sage Memorial Shop Building erected.
- 1931 - W. Leslie Yaw, present president, appointed Superintendent.
- 1934 - Young People's Conference, bi-racial, sponsored by the Presbytery held on the campus. This the first in Alaska; held annually since then.
- 1935 - High School accredited by Northwest Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
- 1937 - Workboat, the "S.J.S." built by students.
- 1941 - Princeton-Hall, missionary boat, built for the Unit of work in Alaska. Requisitioned by the Navy, together with the "S.J.S." on the out-break of war.
- 1942 - New work boat, "S.J.S. II" built by students.
- 1943 - Building Fund raised in women's and young people's organizations in Presbyterian Churches across the United States for new school and administration building.
- 1944 - School became the first Junior College in Alaska with the addition of two years of college work. Only one other institution of college rank in the territory, the University of Alaska at Fairbanks.
- Territorial Board of Education recommended that school look forward to becoming a four year College.



- 1946 - Name changed to Sheldon Jackson Junior College
- 1949 - Steps initiated to secure Junior College accreditation by the Northwest Association of Colleges and secondary schools.
- 1950 - Supplementary fund being raised by Women's Societies for new school and administration building as original sum raised in 1943 now inadequate because of high building costs.  
Sage Shop Building to be remodelled for up to date science department.  
Home Economics Department in Practice Cottage to be enlarged by addition of a second classroom so as to provide a Foods Laboratory and a Clothing Laboratory.



SHELDON JACKSON JUNIOR COLLEGESitka, AlaskaProgram1949-50Place of the College in the Board's Total Program

Essential to the continuing development of Presbyterian leadership in Alaska. Until four years ago enrolled Indians only. Now open to all Alaskan youth. Will have expanding area of influence as student body becomes increasingly inter-racial.

Graduates are the mainstays of Indian churches and communities. Two are ordained pastors and serve churches in Wainwright and Juneau, and many are lay church workers - deacons, elders, presidents of women's societies, etc. Graduates are also active in community improvement and form the backbone of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood. Some are employed by the Government as teachers, nurses, secretaries, etc.

General School ProgramJunior College (Two years of work)

Offers training for Social, Community and Religious Leadership. Advanced courses in Bible and Religious Education; English, Commercial subjects; Sociology; Music; Arts and Crafts; Horticulture and Chemical Gardening; Shop; Home Economics. Accreditation by Northwest Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools being sought.

High School (Grades 9 - 12)

Accredited by Northwest Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Regular high school program with strong emphasis on Religious Education, and on vocational training; For boys;- boat building, marine engines, printing, simple carpentry and electricity. For girls;- cooking, sewing, child care, home nursing, Practice House. For boys and girls - elementary business courses.

Adult Work

Two weeks leadership training course for church leaders from towns and villages in southeastern Alaska offered annually in Cooperation Department of Work in Alaska and the Presbytery.

Summer Program

Young People's Summer Conference held on campus in cooperation Presbytery and Board of Christian Education. Daily Vacation Bible Schools in villages and canneries in cooperation Department of Work in Alaska. Recreational and study activities for Sitka children such as cooperation in Scout Program, extended Daily Vacation Bible School.

Religious Program

Church services - attendance at Presbyterian Church in Sitka. Required week-day Bible classes (at least 1½ hours weekly) for each grade. Daily chapel; Evening Prayer groups in dormitories. Westminster Fellowship. Sunday School classes for all ages. Missionary Society for senior girls.



School Relationships

Board of National Missions - Mr. Yaw, the General Director, was responsible to the Board through the Department of Educational and Medical Work.

Sitka Presbyterian Church - Staff and students belong to church. Many joint church and school activities carried on each year.

Presbytery - School recognized as reservoir for training of local leaders and center for conference and other groups. Contacts maintained through meetings of Presbytery, annual Young People's Conference on campus, and annual trip on the school boat, the S.J.S. II, of selected students and teachers to towns in southeastern Alaska to put on religious programs in churches and meet local basket ball teams.

The Office of Indian Affairs and Territorial Agencies

Close relationships with officers of Governmental and Territorial educational health and welfare agencies.



SHELDON JACKSON JUNIOR COLLEGESitka, AlaskaPersonnel

1950-51

Missionary Personnel

24

Maintenance Personnel

6

Terms of Missionary Appointment

1. Appointments: On a 3 year basis. Travel from point of origin to the station paid on the initial appointment only. Return travel to Seattle paid if end of three year term.
2. Vacations: One month annually at end of each of first two years. Three months (with full salary) at end of 3rd year.
3. Vacation Travel: Round trip travel to Seattle every 3rd year.

Missionary Personnel

<u>Name</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Position</u>
Leslie Yaw .....	M.A.....	General Director
Harry A. Brandt.....	M.A.....	Administrative Director
William B. Bullick .....	— .....	Assistant Engineer
Georgia Conley .....	B.A.....	8th Grade, Librarian
Laurence T. Doig .....	B.S.....	Engineer
Mabel F. Downer .....	B.A.....	Arts and Crafts
Jessie I Frazer .....	B.S.....	Dietitian
Fern R. Gabel .....	M.A.....	Supervisor Senior Girls, Guidance Director
Ruth Herron, R.N. ....	B.A., C.M.....	Nurse
Cora Houk .....	B.A.....	Office Assistant
Helen McClurg .....	B.A.....	Home Economics
Joyce Mumby .....	B.S.....	Mathematics, Science
H. George Prescott.....	B.I.A.E. ....	Manual Training
Rev. James Robinson .....	B.D.....	Bible, Supervisor Senior Boys
*Mrs. James (Dorothy) Robinson ..	M.A.....	Commercial
*Kenneth W. Smith .....	B.A.....	Athletic Dir., Supervisor Jr. Boys
*Mrs. Kenneth W. (Elizabeth) Smith	B.A.....	English
.....	.....	Dining Room, Relief Supervisor
Gladys Whitmore.....	M.S.....	Registrar, Science
Roland B. Wurster .....	M.Ed.....	Dean Social Science
.....	.....	Laundry Supervisor
.....	.....	General Worker
.....	.....	Supervisor Junior Girls
.....	.....	Music

\*Temporary Assignment



Sheldon Jackson Junior College

Sitka, Alaska

BudgetGross Appropriation 1950Field ReceiptsNet Appropriation

Salaries		\$38,657.
Operating		
Maintenance	\$14,350.	
Provisions	21,000.	
Upkeep	1,500.	
Equipment	<u>1,400.</u>	
Total		38,250.
		<u>\$76,907.</u>

\$16,748.\$60,159.Gross Appropriation 1951EstimatedField ReceiptsNet Appropriation

Salaries		\$44,251.
Operating		
Maintenance	\$14,350.	
Provisions	19,200.	
Upkeep	2,000.	
Equipment	<u>450.</u>	
Total		36,000.
		<u>\$80,251.</u>

\$15,000.\$65,251.

NOTE: Above figures do not include travel costs, special repair grants, building grants, etc.



SHELDON JACKSON JUNIOR COLLEGE  
SITKA, ALASKA

Present plant

Land — 354.85 acres

Value — \$30,000.

	Use	Construction	Date of Erection	Value of Building (July 1949)	Value of Contents
Sage Memorial	Vocational Building and power plant	Concrete	1930	\$52,000.00	\$34,470.80
Richard W. Allen Memorial	School Bldg.	frame	1911	30,000.00	6,947.00
North Pacific Hall	Girls' Dorm. Dining room and kitchen	frame	1911	19,000.00	16,060.97
Stevenson Hall	Girls' Dorm.	frame	1911	21,600.00	5,206.42
Home Missions Monthly	Boys' Dorm.	frame	1911	27,000.00	5,793.25
Fraser Hall	Boys' Dorm.	frame	1911	21,600.00	2,622.50
Laundry Building	Laundry, boiler room, oil storage	frame and concrete	1911	18,000.00	8,204.75
Infirmery	Health center	frame	1926	12,000.00	4,396.65
Practice House	Girls' Dorm., classes	frame	1927	12,000.00	2,305.80
Pittsburgh Cottage	Residence	frame	1906	7,200.00	1,353.00
Nancy Craig Cottage	Residence	frame	1915	4,200.00	1,124.00
Ada F. Pears "	"	frame	1926	7,500.00	804.00
West Cottage	"	frame	1913	4,200.00	809.25
North Cottage	"	frame	1913	3,000.00	503.50
Gym-Recreational Bldg.	Athletics	frame	1934	16,000.00	2,649.00
Museum	Museum	concrete and asbestos shingle roof	1895	7,200.00	20,000.00
Sawmill	(frame construction covered with galv. sheet iron, engine room reinforced concrete frame)		1940	3,800.00	3,900.00
Pittsburgh Garage		frame		120.00	
Ada F. Pears Garage		frame		120.00	
Storehouse	Provisions storage	frame	1911	4,000.00	3,202.75
Garage	Truck, paint, tools	frame	1924	750.00	502.75
Woodshed	Misc. storage	frame	1942	120.00	
Oil House	Oil in drums	frame and galv. iron	1930	150.00	
Library & student Center	Library-Recreation	frame	1948	4,500.00	9,248.00
Warehouse	Truck & storage	frame	1948	3,000.00	1,500.00
TOTAL .....				\$279,960.00	\$131,604.89

SJS II

Workboat and trans. wood

15,000.00



*April 13, 1950*SUMMARY OF REPLIES ON EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IN ALASKA

Dr. Terris Moore, President University of Alaska

"I can visualize at least three general objectives which are eminently worthy:

1. The objective of making it possible for talented Alaska native children to get to college who are not now readily able to do so.
2. The objective of bringing a wholesome religious influence into the lives of students at existing colleges in Alaska.
3. The objective of creating a third college in Alaska.

Also if you erect a new college it seems to me you will wish to assemble enough money to be able to do the job properly before an irrevocable commitment to the project is made. Without having made a detailed study, and judging primarily from our own experience, I would think that a number of million of dollars would be necessary for the erection of suitable plant, and an approximately equal amount for endowment.

Another problem will be that of which fields should be covered most intensively. An important need, and a logical offering on the coast of Alaska, would be in the fields of fisheries and forestry. The University of Alaska offers little in these fields at present and there is a specific demand for these subjects from the citizens of Southeastern Alaska. The number of students would, however, be small. This is evident from the existing population figures in the towns of Southeastern Alaska."

John O. Gross, Board of Education of The Methodist Church

"Answering your questions in seriatim:

1. There is one educational institution of college grade in Alaska--namely, the University of Alaska. I understand that the Presbyterians have a small school at Sitka and have lifted it to junior college status. The University of Alaska at Fairbanks enrolls approximately 350 students with some extension students in addition. About one-half of the students enrolled in the University of Alaska come from Alaska, and, incidentally, more than one-half of the total number that come from Alaska live in Fairbanks.
2. There is a need for an educational institution in Alaska which will emphasize such subjects as are traditionally emphasized in a Christian college of liberal arts. These naturally produce the type of leadership that is essential for the building of a Christian culture in Alaska. At present, a very small percentage (perhaps not over 15%) of the teachers in Alaska are trained by the University of Alaska. A Christian college in Alaska might go a long way in preparing personnel for teaching positions in Alaska. Obviously, too, there are great demands for persons who can serve in social work of various kinds. From experience, we know that leadership such as Alaska needs stems usually from the liberal arts college.



APPENDIX A.

John O. Gross Reply Cont'd

3. Any institution that is started in Alaska, I have said in my report, will have to be content to be small. I do not think a Christian college can hope for an enrollment any larger than the University of Alaska and perhaps not as large. The difference may come if the school is located in a center where there is a comparatively large population and where it may hope to have many part-time students. During the period when public works cannot be carried on in Alaska and also around Army camps there may be chances of doing work on a part-time basis.

I believe that the Christian churches must face the need of an institution in Alaska to supplement the efforts that they are making to develop a Christian culture in Alaska. Profiting by mistakes made here in the States it is obvious to me that a plan ought to be worked out before the institution begins to make a Christian college in Alaska interdenominational in its emphasis."

James C. Ryan, Commissioner of Education

"In response to your letter of March 7, I will try to answer your questions concerning education at the college level in Alaska as fully and clearly as possible.

1. The present status of education at the college level in the Territory:

There is only one institution of higher learning in the Territory - the University of Alaska at College, Alaska. The Sheldon Jackson Junior College at Sitka, Alaska has limited its curriculum to courses of a terminal nature, because of the limitations of buildings, equipment, and teaching staff.

2. The need as you see it for such education:

As I see the problem, there is great need for higher education especially in liberal arts in Southeastern Alaska. The population is growing, and the University has not been able to serve the Southeastern section. Another university in the Interior or Western section of Alaska would merely compete with the University and would not serve the Southeastern area.

3. The prospects for growth in the future.

It is difficult to determine with any degree of accuracy the population of Alaska, but I am confident that the 1950 census will show that the Territory has a population of well over a hundred thousand people. With the prospect of Statehood, I have every reason to believe that not only will the population of Alaska increase, but our industries will expand, and Alaska will take a leading place in the affairs of the Nation.

At the present time the University of Alaska is able to meet the demands for higher education in the Interior and Western Alaska, but the Southeastern area is left without any educational facilities on the collegiate level. If the Home Missions Council is contemplating the extension of education work in the Territory, I urge that it investigate the possibility of establishing either a junior or senior college somewhere in the Southeastern area."



APPENDIX A.

Willard W. Beatty, Chief, Branch of Education, Bureau of Indian Affairs

"With the limited number of students and amount of funds available, we should be very hesitant about starting competitive private institutions that will vie both for students and for support funds which could possibly, if concentrated in one location, provide for one good institution of collegiate grade. A lot of little institutions do no one any good. The academic program is not good because it is impossible to raise the funds to employ competent people, and, therefore, the grade of education which is offered is second-rate, and that discourages students. It would, therefore, be my present belief that every effort should be made to improve the financial support and the physical properties of the University of Alaska. It would be several years, in my own opinion, before any great amount of effort should be expended on providing additional collegiate offerings.

I was interested in the steps which were taken a year or two ago to expand Sheldon Jackson School to a junior college level, and to open it to non-Natives as well as to Natives. I would like to see for a year or two how much growth takes place in this particular location.

As I have stated in one of my earlier letters to the Home Missions Council, I am not particularly enthusiastic about the expansion of liberal art colleges for Native pupils, because the average Native needs to be taught something from which he can make a living, and the average graduate of a liberal arts college does not have any salable skills. A good vocational program needs a larger enrollment and greater financial facilities than a liberal arts college, but that does not minimize the need for the money or the size, and that need is not met by building and operating a number of small liberal arts institutions."



## Alaska Minutes

April 13, 1950

Sitka, Alaska

1. Enrollment .....140
2. Grades of work.....8th grade through second year college
3. Church Members.....Presbyterians..... 100  
Greek Orthodox..... 6  
Others..... 14  
Joined church during year..... 2  
Not church members at end of year..... 9
- \*4. Racial Composition Student Body 1948-49  
White..... 2 Eskimos.....12  
Indian: Thlingets..... 58 Aleutians..... 3  
Tsimpsseans.... 23  
Haidas..... 30
5. Communities Represented in Student Body.....25  
Range was from St. Lawrence Island and Wainwright to Petersburg. Majority of students from towns and villages in Southeastern Alaska.
6. Availability - other schools of high school and college rank  
No other Junior College in Alaska  
14 High School students from towns with public high schools  
95 High School and College students from towns where nearest public high school is 20 miles or more away with no transportation available.
7. Occupations of parents of Students  
Fishermen ..... 75 Minister and lay  
Saw Mill or Cold workers ..... 2  
Storage Workers... 6 Orphans..... 11  
Business (store Trappers & Loggers.... 5  
owners or clerks).. 7 Miscellaneous..... 9  
Laborers.....14
8. Charges to Students  
Tuition and board and room: (8th grade.....\$80 a year  
(High School & Junior College....\$100 a year  
In 1948-49, 107 paid full in cash; 8 paid half in cash and the balance in work; 11 paid no tuition in cash.
9. Graduates  
From High School since High School work was established.....262  
From Junior College..... 7  
Graduates continuing their study in other schools 1948-49..... 12

\*\* For the current year, charges are: 9th and 10th grades, \$125.00  
11th grade and up, \$150.00



APPENDIX B.

History in Brief

- 1878 - Reverend John C. Brady (later Governor of Alaska) sent to Sitka, on initiative of Dr. Sheldon Jackson as first commissioned Presbyterian minister in Alaska. Miss Fannie E. Kellogg opened mission day school April 17th. In December married S. Hall Young and went to Wrangell. School broken up.
- 1879 - Alonzo E. Austin and wife arrived. Served as Chaplain and later Superintendent.
- 1880 - Mrs. Austin reopened day school in abandoned Government Guard House. Later moved to old Russian hospital building and a few boys accepted as boarders.
- 1882 - Girls' department added. Old hospital burned and school housed in abandoned Government stable until Dr. Sheldon Jackson could erect a school building from second hand materials. 640 acres surveyed and recorded at Sitka in accordance with organic act of Congress permitting reservation of 640 acres for each mission station among Indians.
- 1884 - Wrangell School (girls) combined with Sitka school under name of Sitka Industrial Training School. Dr. Jackson, Superintendent of school for the year. Organized the Sitka Presbyterian Church.
- 1910 - Name of school changed to Sheldon Jackson School in honor of the "great missionary pathfinder." School closed for year during erection of six new buildings; four dormitories, school building, industrial building.
- 1921 - First class to graduate from high school.
- 1927 - Central heating plant erected.
- 1929 - Sage Memorial Shop Building erected.
- 1931 - W. Leslie Yaw, present president, appointed Superintendent.
- 1934 - Young People's Conference, bi-racial, sponsored by the Presbytery held on the campus. This the first in Alaska; held annually since then.
- 1935 - High School accredited by Northwest Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
- 1937 - Workboat, the "S.J.S." built by students.
- 1941 - Princeton-Hall, missionary boat, built for the Unit of work in Alaska. Requisitioned by the Navy, together with the "S.J.S." on the out-break of war.
- 1942 - New work boat, "S.J.S. II" built by students.
- 1943 - Building Fund raised in women's and young people's organizations in Presbyterian Churches across the United States for new school and administration building.



APPENDIX B.

- 1944 - School became the first Junior College in Alaska with the addition of two years of college work. Only one other institution of college rank in the territory, the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. Territorial Board of Education recommended that school look forward to becoming a four year college.
- 1946 - Name changed to Sheldon Jackson Junior College.
- 1949 - Steps initiated to secure Junior College accreditation by the Northwest Association of Colleges and secondary schools.
- 1950 - Supplementary fund being raised by Women's Societies for new school and administration building as original sum raised in 1943 now inadequate because of high building costs.

Sage Shop Building to be remodelled for up-to-date science department. Home Economics Department in Practice Cottage to be enlarged by addition of a second classroom so as to provide a Foods Laboratory and a Clothing Laboratory.

\* \* \* \* \*

Program 1949-50

Place of the College in the Board's Total Program

Essential to the continuing development of Presbyterian leadership in Alaska. Until four years ago enrolled Indians only. Now open to all Alaskan youth. Will have expanding area of influence as student body becomes increasingly inter-racial.

Graduates are the mainstays of Indian churches and communities. Two are ordained pastors and serve churches in Wainright and Juneau, and many are lay church workers - deacons, elders, presidents of women's societies, etc. Graduates are also active in community improvement and form the backbone of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood. Some are employed by the Government as teachers, nurses, secretaries, etc.

General School Program

Junior College (Two years of work)

Offers training for Social, Community and Religious Leadership. Advanced courses in Bible and Religious Education; English, Commercial subjects; Sociology; Music; Arts and Crafts; Horticulture and Chemical Gardening; Shop; Home Economics. Accreditation by Northwest Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools being sought.

High School (Grades 9-12)

Accredited by Northwest Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Regular high school program with strong emphasis on Religious Education, and on vocational training: For boys;- boat building, marine engines, printing, simple carpentry and electricity. For girls;- cooking, sewing, child care, home nursing, Practice House. For boys and girls - elementary business courses.

Adult Work

Two weeks leadership training course for church leaders from towns and villages in southeastern Alaska offered annually in Cooperation Department of Work in Alaska and the Presbytery,



APPENDIX B.

General School Program Cont'd

Summer Program

Young People's Summer Conference held on campus in cooperation Presbytery and Board of Christian Education. Daily Vacation Bible Schools in villages and canneries in cooperation Department of Work in Alaska. Recreational and study activities for Sitka children such as cooperation in Scout Program, extended Daily Vacation Bible School.

Religious Program

Church services - attendance at Presbyterian Church in Sitka.  
Required week-day Bible classes (at least 1½ hours weekly) for each grade.  
Daily chapel; Evening Prayer groups in dormitories  
Westminster Fellowship  
Sunday School classes for all ages  
Missionary Society for senior girls

School Relationships

Board of National Missions - Mr. Yaw, the president, responsible to the Board through the Department of Educational and Medical Work.

Sitka Presbyterian Church - Staff and students belong to church. Many joint church and school activities carried on each year.

Presbytery - School recognized as reservoir for training of local leaders and center for conference and other groups. Contacts maintained through meetings of Presbytery, annual Young People's Conference on campus, and annual trip on the school boat, the S.J.S. II, of selected students and teachers to towns in south-eastern Alaska to put on religious programs in churches and meet local basketball teams.

\* \* \* \* \*

Personnel 1949-50

Missionary Personnel

Maintenance Personnel

Terms of Missionary Appointment

1. Appointments: On a 3 year basis. Travel from point of origin to the station paid on the initial appointment only. Return travel to Seattle paid if end of three year term.
2. Vacations: One month annually at end of each of first two years. Three months (with full salary) at end of 3rd year.
3. Vacation Travel: Round trip travel to Seattle every 3rd year.

Missionary Personnel

<u>Name</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Position</u>
Leslie Yaw	M.A.	President
Roland Wurster	M. Ed.	Dean, Social Science
Gladys Whitmore	M.S.	Registrar, Science
Georgia Conley	A.B.	8th Grade, Librarian
Laurence T. Doig	B.S.	Engineer



APPENDIX B.

Missionary Personnel Cont'd.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Position</u>
Jessie I. Fraser	B.S.	Dietitian
Jack Gourley	B.S.	English
Ruth Herron	R.N. B.A. C.M.	Nurse
Cora Houk	B.A.	Office Assistant
Eleanor C. Miller	M.A.	Arts and Crafts
Joyce Mumby	B.S.	Mathematics, Science
Rev. James Robinson	B.D.	Bible, Supervisor Sr. Boys
Mrs. Dorothy Robinson	M.A.	Commercial
Eleanor Ruppert	B.S.	Home Economics
Isabella Sing	B.S.	Housemother Stevenson Hall (Jr. Girls)
Kenneth W. Smith	B.A.	Athletic Director, Supervisor Jr. Boys
Mrs. Ruby Lee Thomas	A.B.	Dining Room and Relief Supervisor
Walter Yeh	Ph. D.	Music
Mrs. Dorothy Harris		Housemother N. Pacific Hall (Sr. Girls)
H. George Prescott	B.I.A.E.	Manual Training



APR 24 1950

Board of National Missions  
of the Presbyterian Church in the  
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

413 1244  
1604 1/2

April 21, 1950

My dear Dr. Oman:

Dr. William S. Meyer now of the Immanuel Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles, happened to be at our Ganado Mission in Arizona when I was there late in March and so was able to talk with me about the reports which he had heard while in Alaska last fall relative to the plans of the Methodists to enter the field of higher education in the Territory. Dr. Meyer mentioned then that he intended to write you and he has now been good enough to send us a copy of your reply of March 20th to his letter.

Since my talk with Dr. Meyer the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council had a special meeting at which the educational situation in Alaska was discussed. The Committee had before it the Action of our own Board taken last February expressing our readiness to consider an interdenominational educational set up, and also received similar statements from Dr. Gould and Dr. Fischer who represented the Methodist Board in the meeting. There was considerable discussion following which the Committee went on record to the effect that there is need of a Christian College of higher education in Alaska. The Committee also requested that the denominations explore the entire field of need both in the secondary and higher education with the view of meeting this need on an interdenominational basis. Dr. Gould and Dr. Fischer promised that these actions of the Committee together with the previous action of our own Board would be presented to the Methodist Committee which we understood was to meet on April 17th.

My real reason in writing you, however, is not to comment on these recent developments relative to an interdenominational approach but to express our concern over one statement in your letter which indicates that someone who has talked with you has been gravely misinformed about our reasons for suggesting a combined denominational approach to education in Alaska. This statement is, "I am advised that the Presbyterian Church wishes our church to cooperate in order to aid Sheldon Jackson, which I understand is in a difficult situation financially, located poorly, and is a Junior College of about 25 students."

It is true that the Junior College Department at Sheldon Jackson is small as we have continued to send our most promising students to the States. We decided last fall, however, that this was a mistake and have taken steps during the current year toward securing accreditation for the Junior College Department and completing a building fund for a new school and administration building. This school is definitely not in a difficult situation financially as we expect to have the funds available for the plans which we have made for its development as an accredited Junior College.

With respect to the site of the College several persons who talked with me on their own initiative last fall when I was in Alaska about the reports there of the Methodist plans expressed their opinion that we have an excellent site in Sitka. We own a good sized tract of level ground in a beautiful location facing the sea, in a community which is developing rapidly, but which does not



Dr. Ozman

- 2 -

1/21/50

present some of the difficulties with respect to drink and vice found in most of the larger communities in Alaska. The development of the Government facilities on Japonski Island in Sitka harbor is, we think, a decided asset as there are possibilities for cooperation which we are interested in exploring.

I am sure that you will understand my purpose in sending you the above information. We feel that we have a well established and well located institution in Sheldon - Jackson with some of its best years of service ahead. We have both the plans and funds in hand for its development but feel that Alaska is too small for competition between the denominations and hence are ready to consider a cooperative approach if that seems best for the Christian cause in Alaska.

Very sincerely yours,

Katharine E. Cladfelter  
Secretary, Department of  
Educational and Medical Work

Dr. G. Broasley Ozman  
The Methodist Church Headquarters  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, N. Y.

KEC/eb

Copy: Dr. William S. Meyer  
Immanuel Presbyterian Church  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Mr. Leslie Yaw, President,  
Sheldon Jackson Junior College  
Sitka, Alaska

Dr. George Nace  
Home Missions Council  
297 Fourth Avenue  
New York N. Y.

Rev. R. Rolland Armstrong  
Box 2539  
Juneau, Alaska

Dr. Morse

Dr. Jackman



APR 24 1950

cc: Mr. Leslie Yaw, President, Sheldon Jackson Junior College, Sitka, Alaska—Air Mail  
Rev. R. Roland Armstrong, P. O. Box 2539, Juneau, Alaska — Air Mail  
Dr. George Nace, Board of National Missions, 110 Ave., New York, N. Y.  
Dr. H. N. Morse  
Dr. Earl J. Jackson

of the Presbyterian Church in the  
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

April 20, 1950

My dear Dr. Meyer:

I appreciate very much your letter of April 13, sending me the reply of March 2<sup>nd</sup> from Bishop Oxman to your recent letter relative to the Methodist plans for an educational institution in Alaska.

I was interested in Bishop Oxman's emphasis on an inter-denominational approach in his letter as the Methodists have not been too vocal along this line in the meetings of the Alaska Committee. However, the two representatives present at the last meeting of the Committee on April 12 seemed more receptive and agreed to an action of the Committee expressing its judgment that any approach to higher education in Alaska should be on an interdenominational basis.

I must confess that I was startled by the statement in Dr. Oxman's letter that the Presbyterian Church wishes the Methodists to cooperate "in order to aid Sheldon Jackson which is in a difficult situation financially and poorly located." It seemed to us very important to correct this misapprehension before we try to sit down to a table together and so I have taken the liberty of writing Dr. Oxman as you will see from the enclosed copy of my letter to him.

We will keep you posted on developments as we greatly appreciate your interest in Alaska and our Board's work there.

With best wishes, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Katharine E. Gladfelter  
Secretary, Department of  
Educational and Medical Work

Dr. William E. Meyer  
Immanuel Presbyterian Church  
Los Angeles, California

KEG:ek

Enc.



*all sent  
Methodists etc.*

May 3, 1950

Dr. G. Bromley Oxnam  
Bishop of the Methodist Church  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, New York

Dear Dr. Oxnam:

Miss Gladfelter has sent me a copy of her letter to you concerning your recent statement about Sheldon Jackson Junior College in Sitka, Alaska, and the proposal for interdenominational cooperation in educational work on the college level in the Territory.

I am writing in support of her statement.

Someone has given you wrong information concerning the status of our Junior College. The Presbyterians have a current budget allocation which is sufficient for the development of a program and the capital funds in hand and in prospect to begin the program of expansion and rebuilding of the campus in its present location.

Our chief concern in this matter is to eliminate competition which will be detrimental to both Mission Boards concerned and the Christian cause. On a recent trip to Alaska I gathered information from the three official sources which are responsible for high school work in the Territory to find that 413 high school Seniors have been proposed for graduation in 1950 from all of Alaska. According to the best estimates of those who gave me the figures, slightly more than 100 of them have indicated their desire and purpose to attend college next year. A good portion of these will come to the States which will leave probably less than 50 available for college work within the Territory.

The University of Alaska has a student body of 350, of whom 132 in all four years listed themselves as being from Alaska. Sheldon Jackson has 16 students in the Junior College Department with the prospect of increase each succeeding year as additional facilities are added. The University is contemplating a program of expansion to 500 to 600 students and will have available at least \$3,000,000 for capital building purposes. Sheldon Jackson is expanding also.

The Alaskan Native Service states that they have facilities on the junior college level as well as high school for any native in the Territory who desires vocational training to fit him for employment in the leading industries of Alaska. The general consensus from those concerned is that there is no need for additional work on the college level in the Territory. To establish another college now would certainly bring competition with existing agencies. Rather than have this happen among church agencies, the



Dr. Coznan

-2-

May 3, 1950

Presbyterians are willing and have offered to examine the need in the Territory interdenominationally.

We trust that we may look at this in a fair way and come to a decision which will not dissipate Mission funds and increase the number of competitive situations. This should have been examined before the present financial campaign was projected.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Dept. of Work in Alaska

JEL:IS

CC: Miss Katharine E. Gladfelter  
Rev. R. Rolland Armstrong



MAY 1 1950



# First Presbyterian Church

CUSHMAN AT SEVENTH  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

P.O. BOX 2157

FRED KOSCHMANN, PASTOR

April 27, 1950



*(all file  
methodists in alaska)*

Dr. J. Earl Jackman  
Department of Work in Alaska  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

31  
The Rev. Al Jones, Episcopal Rector here, called yesterday to say that he had received a letter from the Methodist Board asking what he would think of their sending in three seminarians this summer to take a religious census of Fairbanks and vicinity.

We talked it over and decided to make a counter proposal to the Home Missions Council, that the ministerial Association of Fairbanks, make the survey with whatever help the Council can give us, and then make the results available to the Council, as well as to the churches here. I think this would serve the same purpose, and would certainly be more acceptable to us.

31  
We would appreciate your reaction to this, and if, and when available, that of the Council.

Sincerely yours,

*Fred Koschmann*  
Fred Koschmann



MAY 10 1950

*al  
Methodist de*

G. BROMLEY OXNAM  
BISHOP OF THE METHODIST CHURCH  
THE NEW YORK AREA  
150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 11, N.Y.

May 9, 1950

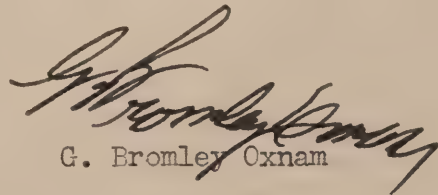
Rev. J. Earl Jackman  
Department of Work in Alaska  
Board of National Missions  
of the Presbyterian Church in the  
United States of America  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Jackman:

I have already written Miss Gladfelter about the matter we have been discussing. I have told her the matter is one within the jurisdiction of our Division of Home Missions. I was simply expressing my personal opinion in the light of information at hand.

I am very happy to have the full statement of fact from you.

Ever sincerely yours,

  
G. Bromley Oxnam

GBO:aph



*al side  
methodists in al dr.*

October 24, 1950

Dr. Elliott Fisher  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Fisher:

Recently there has been forwarded to me from Alaska a rumor that the Methodists are contemplating the purchase of a lot for the future church in the Spennard section of Anchorage. No one seemed to be able to confirm the report but in the interest of good relations we felt it wise to report to you and to the Secretary of the Alaska Committee that the Presbyterians have a property and an organization in the Spennard area. This location is south of the city and in the vicinity of the new international airport. We have a resident minister on the field and are in the midst of plans for the further development of the property.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Dept. of Work in Alaska

JEL:D  
cc Dr. I. George Nace  
Rev. R. Rolland Armstrong



*Christian College in Alaska*

*MAR 22 1951*

CHICAGO CLEARING HOUSE ASSOCIATION

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK BUILDING

164 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO 4

CHARLES H. ALBERS  
MANAGER & CHIEF EXAMINER

March 20, 1951

Rev. J. Earl Jackman  
c/o Board of National Missions of the  
Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, New York

Dear Earl:

I am advised by Dr. Morse that Dr. Milner has appointed a Committee, of which I am Chairman, to confer with a like Committee of the Methodist Board relative to Alaska college work.

In order that I might be better informed as to what this is all about, I wonder if you would be good enough to pass on to me such essential information as you have. I should at least like to think about this matter before we have a joint Committee meeting.

I will look forward to seeing you at the April Board meetings.

Most cordially yours,

*Charles H. Albers*

*See copy of letter written by J. Earl Jackman to J. Earl Milner dated 3/21/51*



all  
Christian College  
(proposal) Jde

March 27, 1951

Mr. Charles H. Albers  
Chicago Clearing House Association  
164 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 4, Illinois

Dear Charlie:

We are glad to welcome you as Chairman of the special Committee for the Presbyterians on the Christian college in Alaska. We are certain that you will give it competent leadership.

For a long number of years Sheldon Jackson Junior College has been developing to where it is now. It has served largely the native people of Southeastern Alaska but may not have given a completely adequate ministry to that part of the entire territory. Nevertheless, it has developed and has led the way on each educational level from grades to high school and now to junior college, and a movement is in progress now to accredit the junior college as the possible first step toward a complete four-year college course. You are aware of the fact that money is available for some additional houses and for a new administration and classroom building. We stand on the verge of new development.

The University of Alaska was established in the early twenties in College which is a village about four and a half miles from Fairbanks. It is similar to the old land grant colleges in the States and gets its appropriations from the territorial government. It is directed by a Board of Regents, has about three hundred fifty students, approximately two hundred of whom live on the campus and the balance live in the neighborhood or in the city of Fairbanks. About one-third of the students are registered in courses in the arts and about two-thirds of them are engineering students. Ordinarily less than half of them list themselves as living in Alaska because they come from the States. This is a peculiar situation because a person who has lived in Alaska may list himself as a resident of the territory and get free tuition at the University. So it is to his advantage to list himself as an Alaskan. Many of the engineering students go up from the States because they can get a good engineering course, work in the gold mines or construction program in the summer and earn enough money to pay all of the college bills. (There is no tuition for those who live in Alaska). The University has appropriations totaling three million dollars for an expansion program which would give them facilities to care for six hundred students, so that they too are looking for the development of the future.

In all of Alaska during 1949-50 there were twenty-six hundred students in all four years of high school. Slightly more than four hundred of these graduated from the high school at the end of their senior year. On the basis of past figures two hundred of them went to college and of this number one hundred came to the states which left only the possibility of one hundred persons for the student body at the University and Sheldon Jackson Junior College. It is on the basis of figures like these that the Episcopalians and others have declined to do anything toward an interdenominational Christian college because they feel it is not needed in the territory.



The Methodist Church has a home for child care at Seward which is called the Jessie Lee Home. They care for children through the eighth grade and then usually send them back to their native villages where they return to a lower level of living physically and spiritually. Some of the Methodist leaders felt they ought to conserve what they already had invested in these children and have a boarding high school perhaps similar to Sheldon Jackson. They started out to develop this idea. Meanwhile, someone on the college level in the States got a hold of it and decided they ought to have a four-year Christian college in the territory to get ready for the new development. Therefore, they included in their forward movement a campaign for a million dollars for the new Christian college in Alaska. The Chamber of Commerce in each large community made a bid for it, and a couple of the Methodist leaders who went all out for promoting the idea encouraged them each to expect to get it. There was talk of it being established in Juneau which would virtually mean that it and Sheldon Jackson would be in competition. Lest such a thing would happen we approached them with the idea of discussing this development interdenominationally rather than having further competition, particularly if they thought of establishing the school in South-eastern Alaska. We told them if they wanted to put it in the Seward area near their Home we would shower our blessings upon them and work cooperatively for the general educational needs of the territory.

When the Methodists came face to face with the proposition of the cost of establishing the school they were more willing to talk interdenominationally. The matter has been discussed many times in the Alaska Committee. The Methodists first were accused of proceeding on this and even adopting a campaign for funds without clearance with the Alaska Committee which had not given them approval to establish a school in any part of the territory. After a rather full discussion the Episcopalians, Friends and Moravians said they did not feel there was a need for it and their work would not be affected by it; therefore, they would not participate. The whole thing has boiled down now to a matter between the Methodists and the Presbyterians and the Home Mission Board of each denomination has been asked to form a Committee composed of the Board and staff members to study the matter together. We desire that our Committee shall have a separate meeting of its own in connection with the April Board meeting and then we shall be prepared to sit down with the Methodists and discuss the future regarding it.

We trust this brief review will help you get a picture of it. If there is anything more that I or Miss Gladfelter can do, please be free to call upon us.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Department of Work in Alaska

JEJ:AG

Dictated by Dr. Jackman;  
signed in his absence.



JUL 2 1956

—ECUMENICAL MISSION—  
Board of Foreign Missions  
of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

TO Dr. Jackman

DATE July 2, 1956

FROM Dr. Wysham

The following paragraph is contained in a letter to me from Mrs. C. Marie Park, Box 263, Route 1, Madison, Florida. Mrs. Park is one of our retired Thailand missionaries. She writes as follows:

"We wish to make posters about that university at Anchorage, Alaska and would like a bit of material and pictures. I suppose we Presbyterians are in it also. It would not be only Methodists? I want to write to them at 150 Fifth Avenue also."

*Isn't this  
Methodist*

I have informed Mrs. Park that I have referred this portion of her letter to you for reply and would appreciate your sending some word to her.

*Pete*

WNW:RR



*Methodist Church Related College*

July 11, 1956

Mrs. C. Marie Park  
Box 263  
Route 1  
Madison, Florida

Dear Mrs. Park:

Dr. Wysham of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions has notified us that you have been asking for information "about that university at Anchorage, Alaska."

This is a project of the Methodist Church for the development of a church related college in the vicinity of Anchorage. We Presbyterians did consider sharing in the development of the college but it was proposed that we share equally which we were not prepared to do. We already have Sheldon Jackson Junior College in southeastern Alaska and came to the conclusion that we should develop it further for an interdenominational ministry to southeastern Alaska while the Methodists would develop their church related college in Anchorage as a Protestant service to young people of all denominations in the interior.

The campaign for funds for the Methodist college is progressing slowly. They have set a goal of having two million dollars in hand before they really start so that they can set aside one million dollars for buildings and the other million dollars for endowment. On this basis it may take two or three years more to get started. At the present time the only thing they could show you would be the picture of a site.

Meanwhile, the Presbyterians have funds in hand to erect a new Junior College dormitory and three new faculty residences on the campus of Sheldon Jackson Junior College in Sitka. With the renovation of one main building and the addition of the new library and classroom building already accomplished this new construction will greatly strengthen our program at Sitka. A new administrative staff and a full staff of teachers promise to give us a good year in 1956-57. We appreciate your interest in our work.

Sincerely yours,

JBJ:dj  
cc: Dr. Wysham

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Department of Work in Alaska



PRATT, HEFFERNAN & RAMSEYER  
LAWYERS  
405-11 LIVINGSTON BUILDING  
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

FEB 21 1956

HORACE I. PRATT (1887-1950)  
RALPH J. HEFFERNAN  
ROY A. RAMSEYER  
J. WILLIAM MEARA  
JOHN T. PRATT

February 17, 1956

*only ofc copy*

Dr. J. Earl Jackman  
Board of National Missions  
of the Presbyterian Church  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Earl:

You will recall that last fall I wrote you about Dr. Howard Oborn having spoken to me regarding the college which was contemplated to be located in Anchorage, and you and I visited about it last week when in New York.

Dr. Oborn spoke to me again yesterday at Rotary. As I stated to you previously, he is very much interested in this matter, and would like to see it an inter-Church operation. He has a letter from Mr. W. Vernon Middleton, Executive Secretary of the Methodist Board in New York, from which I quote:

"We appreciate your statement concerning our efforts to make cooperative Christianity work in Alaska. Unfortunately there are one or two zealous denominations which refuse to cooperate.

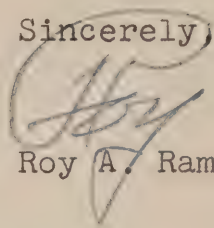
"I think you should know at the very beginning that we made every effort to establish a Christian University in Alaska rather than a Methodist Institution. Unfortunately we were unable to interest any other denominations in the enterprise in a financial way. They were all willing to give the college their blessing and to make recommendations for faculty members but no denomination expressed any willingness to participate in supplying the funds that were necessary. I am sorry that we failed in this endeavor and that we have therefore been compelled to proceed on the basis of a Methodist College."

I am sure that Dr. Oborn is very sincere in his purpose, but I certainly do not wish to get either you or our Board involved in any controversy. I know your judgment is always good in matters of this kind. You will know what can or should be said from the standpoint of our Board's work in Alaska. If there is anything that you feel should be said that will help clarify the situation I shall appreciate hearing from you. I shall leave that to your judgment.



Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Roy A. Ramseyer", written in a cursive style.

Roy A. Ramseyer

RAR/vb



*Alaska  
Methodist College*

August 3, 1956

Mr. Roy A. Ramseyer  
405-11 Livingston Building  
Bloomington, Illinois

Dear Roy:

Several months ago you wrote me for more information about the development of the Methodist College in Alaska and the interest that Dr. Howard Oborn had had in it. On our recent trip to Alaska I made some inquiries about it to see what information would be available.

When the Methodists started this project they talked in terms of a Boarding High School on the Kenai Peninsula near Seward, where they could take care of the orphan children who came to their Jesse Lee Home in Seward. Later one of their Christian Education staff members got hold of the idea and expanded it into a four-year Church related College. Prospective locations for it were suggested for Ketchikan, Juneau and Anchorage. To locate it in south-eastern Alaska, either in Ketchikan or Juneau, would certainly put it in competition with our Sheldon Jackson Junior College, which we were seeking to accredit and if necessary to expand into a four-year College. Each one of these communities mentioned was encouraged to think it might get the College if they would provide a free location and police protection. The atmosphere between us came to be a little tense. Miss Gladfelter asked for conference over it, but we got no response. Finally our Board took an action asking that there be conference over the proposed location. We thought of having several denominations join in the project. The Episcopal Bishop declined because he thought there was no need for it. We considered it, but felt that we could not enter the project on a financial basis equal with the Methodists and still carry the projected enlargement of Sheldon Jackson Junior College in Sitka. We then suggested that the Methodist Church go ahead with the Church related College in the Anchorage area, and we would build up and expand our work in Sheldon Jackson Junior College in Sitka. When the two schools were in full operation we suggested an interchange of faculty members, representation of the Methodist Church on our advisory Board in Sitka, and representation from the Presbyterian Church on their Board of Trustees in Anchorage. Both schools would co-operate also with the University of Alaska in Fairbanks for a total educational program on the College level in the territory.



Mr. Roy A. Ramseyer

-2-

August 3, 1956

Originally the Methodist projected a campaign for \$1,000,000, but recognized that this would not go very far towards providing half of it for endowment and half of it for buildings. They, then, raised the goal to \$2,000,000. Later the goal was raised to \$5,000,000 with the provision that \$500,000 at least should come from the Anchorage area. The campaign was projected there and did not seem to be successful. Dr. Gould made a personal appeal to sustain it, and the Rotary Club was approached to see if they would help sponsor the campaign. At that time the President of the Rotary Club was the Rev. Frank Walkup, the Pastor of our First Church. Rotary picked it up and turned in cash and pledges to the extent of about \$265,000. The highest individual solicitor was a Presbyterian elder who was responsible for more than \$80,000. The total report was about \$700,000 from the Anchorage area. Those responsible for the campaign are very hopeful that the entire amount may be raised. However Dr. Earl Brown feels that they should not go forward until at least \$2,000,000 is in hand so that \$1,000,000 can be set aside for endowment and the other million used for buildings on the development of the campus. They are hoping for something definite in 1957 but it may be 1958 before anything can be done.

The school population in Anchorage has greatly increased so that there is a greater need now than there was five years ago for such a College. Meanwhile the University of Alaska and the City of Anchorage have established work on the College level in the City area. There is a tendency on the part of many families in Anchorage who have come from the States to want the young people to come down here for their College work. What they will do if and when there is a four year Church related College in their own community no one can predict. We may not know the answer to this until it has been tried. Our attitude is to seek co-operation both in south-eastern Alaska in connection with our school there and in the Anchorage area in connection with the proposed Methodist College there.

You will be interested to know that we have just returned from another Seminar to Alaska. We spent the 4th of July in Barrow and dedicated the new plane. On the 5th we had lunch at Kotzebue with a rare visit in the sunshine. On the 6th after rainy weather in Nome, we flew over to Gambell on St. Lawrence Island for a very nice visit of 3-1/2 hours with the Eskimo congregation there. It was a great experience.

Kindest regards to you and your wife,

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Department of Work in Alaska

JEJ:km



REPORT ON CAMPAIGN  
for  
METHODIST COLLEGE IN ALASKA

Total cash Philadelphia.....	\$ 559,424.-
Total cash Anchorage .....	<u>120,000.-</u>

Total Cash .....\$ 679,424.-

Balance Anchorage Pledges .....	\$20,000.-
Estimate of advance specials.....	600,000.-

Firm figure (cash and pledges) .....	\$1,875,424.-
Other goals .....	1,200,000.-

Grand Total .....\$3,079,424.-

JEJ:FK  
8/6/56

J. Pearl Jackman, Secretary  
Dept. of Work in Alaska  
Board of National Missions  
Presbyterian Church USA



JAN 15 1959



# ALASKA METHODIST UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

ANCHORAGE • ALASKA

January 12, 1959

THE UNIVERSITY IS A PROJECT  
OF THE DIVISION OF NATIONAL MISSIONS  
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

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NASHVILLE, TENN.

PLEASE REPLY TO

102 Anchorage Hotel Bldg.

Reverend J. Earl Jackman  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Jackman:

The dawn of Statehood for Alaska brings into sharp focus the most critical need for Christian leaders in every phase of her rapidly expanding life. Just twenty-four hours before the Senate vote on Statehood, the campus for Alaska Methodist University was dedicated. June 29, 1958 marks a milestone in the ten years process of founding this church-related liberal arts college in Alaska.

The Board of Trustees announced the construction of the first academic building will begin in the spring of 1959. Freshmen and Sophomore classes will open in the fall of 1960. Professor Herbert L. Heller, DePauw University, has been named first Academic Dean. We will begin with a building, faculty and a library. Now we are looking for students.

I am writing to all members of the Alaska Committee to compile a list of Missions and churches at work in the new forty-ninth state to whom we can send student recruitment literature. AMU is meant for all Alaska. We will welcome students of all denominations and encourage them to remain close to their churches during their college years and to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the denominational religious organizations which we will welcome and encourage.

Help us organize a sound religious ministry by relating your work in Alaska to AMU. Encourage your high school graduate to attend a church-related college in Alaska. Who is in charge of your work in Alaska? How can we contact your high school student?

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*Donald F. Ebright*  
Donald F. Ebright  
President

DFE:pvs



JAN 15 1959

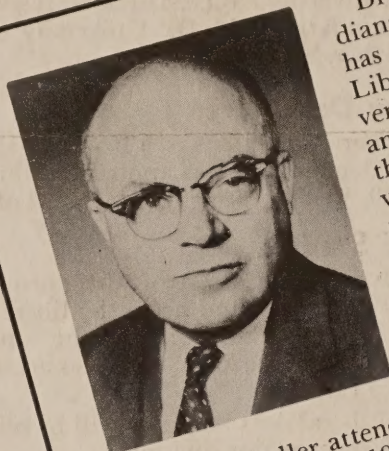
# Alaska Methodist University

JANUARY 1, 1959

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ALASKA METHODIST UNIVERSITY



Dr. Herbert Lyman Heller, prominent Indiana educator, historian and administrator has been appointed Dean Designate of the Liberal Arts College of Alaska Methodist University in Anchorage. His appointment was announced by President Donald F. Ebright, at the meeting of the Board of Trustees on November 19-20, 1958. Dr. and Mrs. Heller and two children will move to Anchorage in the summer of 1959.

Dr. Heller does not come to Alaska as a stranger but as a respected "Alaskan Southerner" but as a respected "Alaskan Southerner." An uncle, Lynn Smith, was U.S. Marshal at Fairbanks during the '20's. He has lived in the Territory on two different occasions in the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Education on the

sions. Dr. Heller attended the Alaska Methodist University in Anchorage, Alaska, from 1928-29. In 1954 he was visiting professor of Education at the University of Alaska. Thus, Dr. Heller brings an Alaskan background to his new post at AMU.

Dr. Heller's career has been in the field of university teaching and administration. He is fifty years of age and a native of Indiana. He was Registrar of Hanover College and has served on the instructional staff of a number of institutions: Ohio University, North Texas State, University of New Mexico, University of Alaska, and since 1950 has taught at DePauw University, attaining the rank of Associate Professor of Education.

In addition to his interest in professional education, he is trained in the field of history and has written a number of books on Indiana history. He is the author of "The Indiana Conference of the Methodist Church, 1932-1956" published by the Indiana Conference. "The Schools of New Castle, Indiana" is in process of publication by the Indiana State Historical Society. He has contributed articles on educational and historical subjects to several magazines and bulletins. He is now editing the voluminous correspondence of his uncle which covers the period from the day he sailed from Seattle for Alaska (1898) until his death in 1933. This will be a significant contribution to Alaska history.

Dr. Heller is a member of the Presbyterian Church and has been active in the affairs of the church and community. He holds the degree of A.B., Indiana University, 1932; M.A., Ball State Teacher's College, 1939; and Ed.D., Indiana University, 1952. "With the appointment of Dr. Heller we can be assured of the academic standards of AMU," commented President Ebright.

## DR. HERBERT L. HELLER

Since its beginning I have been personally interested in Alaska Methodist University. As a representative of DePauw I sat on the committee that helped arrange the academic program. I am now happy to commend highly Dr. Herbert L. Heller as the first Academic Dean of Alaska Methodist University.

Dr. Heller has been an excellent member of our Education Department for eight years. Naturally, we do not like to lose a strong faculty member; however, we believe that this sharing experience for the cause of Christian education is a privilege as well as a responsibility. We wish Dr. Heller and his family the very best as they take up their pioneer work in this pioneer institution. We also hope and pray that Alaska Methodist University will grow in quality and strength over the years under his academic leadership.

RUSSELL J. HUMBERT  
President DePauw University



# Progress Report

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Alaska Methodist University  
Anchorage, Alaska

## Chartered Before Statehood:

In 1948, Dr. Earl R. Brown, then General Secretary, Division of National Missions, invited Dr. John R. Gross, Executive Secretary of the Board of Education of the Methodist Church, to visit Alaska, July 5-16. For ten years many people have labored selflessly for Alaska Methodist University which was incorporated February 4, 1957. The campus was dedicated June 29, 1958 — before Statehood!

## Purpose:

Our fundamental purpose is to provide, in Alaska, a church-related, four-year liberal arts college with such facilities as will enable the student to obtain academic training of high excellence within the framework of Christian truth and American freedom. The years 1960-1969 will see a sharp increase of college students. AMU and other independent liberal arts colleges must assume an obligation to provide sound education for a proportionate share of the oncoming rush of the 1960's.

## Location:

The campus of ALASKA METHODIST UNIVERSITY is located in a picturesque group of hills in the southeast section of the City of Anchorage. The site which reaches an altitude of 235 feet above sea level commands a magnificent view of Cook Inlet to the west, the Chugach Mountains to the east, and the Alaska Range to the northwest.

## Who Supports AMU:

AMU is an Advance Special project of the Division of National Missions of the Methodist Church. It will receive additional financial support from student tuitions and fees, endowment income, gifts from Trustees, friends in the 49 states, corporations and foundations.

## Are we alone?

No, AMU is one of 131 colleges and universities sponsored by the Methodist Church through its general boards and agencies but is non-sectarian. Alaska friends are reminded that American University, Boston University, College of Puget Sound, DePauw University, Duke University, Northwestern University, Southern Methodist University, and Syracuse University are representative of the Methodist chain of schools. AMU is proud to be related to these Methodist institutions.

## Opening Date:

September, 1960, for Freshman and Sophomore classes.

## Building Plans:

The building program is based on admittances of students in September 1960. The first academic building with attached chapel will be constructed during 1959-60. The 8,000 Methodist Men's Clubs are providing books for the temporary library.

## Degrees Offered:

The Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science. The requirements for both degrees will be identical.

## Catalogs:

Will be ready for the Fall of 1959. Send in your name for a copy.

## Trustees:

Government of AMU is vested in a Board of Trustees of twenty men and women.

## President:

The President of AMU is Dr. Donald F. Ebright, B.A., Baker University; B.D., Drew University; M.A., Hartford Foundation; Ph.D., University of Chicago; and D.D., Baker University.

## New Dean Designate:

Dr. Herbert L. Heller's (see front page) appointment as first Academic Dean was announced during the November 19-20, 1958, meeting of the Board of Trustees.

## Course of Study:

The Liberal Arts College of AMU provides in its course of study a solid grounding in the liberal arts — so necessary to general education. At the same time it offers specialization in various fields — so necessary in preparation for a career.

1. The Liberal Arts. Courses will be offered as required in the three major divisions:

### Division I. — Humanities

English, Speech, Literature  
Foreign Languages (Latin, French, German, Russian)  
Religion, Philosophy  
Music, Art

### Division II. — Social Sciences

History, Economics, Political Science, Business Administration, Psychology, Education, Sociology, Anthropology

### Division III. — Mathematics and Sciences

Mathematics, Physics, Biology (Zoology and Botany), Chemistry, Geology, Geography.

2. Education: AMU will offer an approved curriculum for a certificate qualifying you to teach all grades from kindergarten through high school in Alaska.
3. Business Administration and Economics for careers in new phases of industry and commerce in Alaska.
4. Christian Service. Students planning to enter the Christian ministry or serve as missionary and religious field workers or in Christian Education will find well planned courses of study at AMU. We will welcome students of all denominations.

Music — Radio — Nursing. WATCH for future announcements.

## Anchorage Support:

The Committee of 100, led by Mr. Arthur Waldron, staged a great financial campaign in 1955 and secured \$715,000 in pledges. It is the Trustees' firm belief that with the arrival of personnel and 1959 construction the rate of collection of pledges will increase. If your pledge is paid — "our thanks." If you are working on it — "our thanks, keep it up!" If you were not in Anchorage in 1955 we would be happy to talk with you about a volunteer pledge to AMU.

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## For Further Information

Write, phone or visit the office of Alaska Methodist University, 102 Anchorage Hotel Building  
Telephone 67081 Anchorage, Alaska



*A Method. University.*

January 16, 1959

Dr. Donald F. Ebright, President  
Alaska Methodist University  
102 Anchorage Hotel Bldg.  
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Dr. Ebright:

Thank you for your letter with the enclosures, asking for information about the location of our churches and missions in Alaska in order that you may send them promotional material in solicitation of students for the opening of the University in September 1960.

We have been very much interested in the development of AMU since I have been related to Alaska during the early years of progress. It was my pleasure to participate in the service of dedication of the campus in Anchorage on June 29th.

The Rev. Brian H. Cleworth, Box 2539, Juneau, Alaska, is the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Work in Alaska, and is the representative of our Board in the state. He will be in Anchorage February 3 to 5 in connection with the meeting of the Alaska Council of Churches.

We should also call your attention to the fact that a contact should be made with Dr. R. R. Armstrong, President of Sheldon Jackson Junior College in Sitka. Dr. Armstrong has recently visited many of the high schools in the Interior in the interest of students attending Sheldon Jackson. While students should be encouraged to attend the college of their choice in any part of Alaska or the United States, for the last several years, there has been some discussion and hope that there may be a good working relationship between Sheldon Jackson Junior College in southeastern Alaska, AMU in the Anchorage area, and the University of Alaska in College, for the further development of the culture and Christian leadership of the youth of Alaska for the future strength of the civilization of the 49th state. We still have that hope and trust that we may move forward together in this field.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary  
Dept. of Work in Alaska

JBJ:EW

CC: The Rev. Brian H. Cleworth  
Dr. R. R. Armstrong